



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

STATEMENT

OF

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FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE

U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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INTRODUCTION

Good Morning, Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Committee on Government Reform. Thank you for inviting the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Federal Protective Service (FPS) for the National Capital Region (NCR) to appear before you today to describe the state of our coordination, training and equipment for protecting the nation's federal facilities. I am Joseph W. Trindal, Regional Director for FPS in the NCR.

THE ICE/FPS MISSION

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 charged the Secretary of Homeland Security with responsibility for protecting “the buildings, grounds, and property that are owned, occupied, or secured by the federal government and the persons on the property” (Title 40, United States Code, Section 1315(a)). The enabling statutory authority further directs the enforcement of federal law and regulations, including effectuating probable cause arrests, serving arrest warrants and subpoenas, investigating offenses committed against property owned or occupied by the Federal Government or persons on the property, and other activities as the Secretary may prescribe in the interest of homeland security.

Within the NCR, our mission includes the protection of about 750 federal facilities with workspace for approximately 309,000 federal employees and contractors. Using the *1995 DOJ/GSA Vulnerability Assessment of Federal Facilities*, there are nearly 150 Level 4 and 5 facilities within our region. All FPS jurisdiction federal facilities, employees, and visitors, are protected through the judicious application of police patrol operations,

physical security risk vulnerability analysis, intelligence collection, analysis and dissemination, implementation of proactive countermeasures, criminal investigations, interagency emergency preparedness, as well as the posting and performance monitoring of contract guard forces.

FPS/NCR STAFFING

Our current FPS/NCR staffing of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) on-board positions is 229 swornⁱ and support employees. The mission tasks of patrol operations, crime detection, crime prevention, and petty offense criminal investigations are performed by both federal police officers (26%) and Inspectors (29%), which together comprise 125 positions (55%) of the NCR force. Risk vulnerability assessments, countermeasure compliance, and contract guard compliance inspections are principally performed by 66 Inspectors. Specialty disciplines staffed from the ranks of police officers and Inspectors include K-9 Explosive Detection Teams (22), HAZMAT Technicians (5), Confined Space Tunnel Operators (7) and Tactical Emergency Medical Technicians (2). Criminal investigations and intelligence management is handled by 17 (7%) special agents. Another 33 (14%) positions are dedicated to non-law enforcement physical security mission responsibilities. The Mission Support workforce is comprised of 36 (16%) positions and includes such functions as budget, logistics, communications, small purchases, human resources, training and background/suitability clearances. The NCR sworn command staff consists of 18 (8%) of our on-board workforce, and includes the Metropolitan Council of Governments Liaison, the DHS Office of NCR Coordination Liaison, the NCR Plans and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force Liaison.

In addition to FTE staffing, the FPS NCR manages a contract guard pool of about 5,700 guards assigned to posts at nearly 150 federal facilities under FPS protective jurisdiction. The ICE/FPS contract guard service requirements are developed through FPS risk vulnerability assessments, coupled with tenant agency requests, and awarded by the Consolidated Contracting Group (CCG) at FPS Headquarters. Sworn FPS senior physical security specialists have also been tasked with Contracting Officer Technical Representative (COTR) duties to manage contract compliance of these guard services. All sworn FPS personnel in NCR are charged with responsibility for reporting violations of contractual requirements by the contract guard force when observed during the normal course of duties.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The ICE/FPS mission in NCR is organized along functional disciplinary lines as well as political geographic features in the region. Functionally, the FPS mission is accomplished through District Operations, the Threat Management Branch and the Mission Support Branch. Geographically, the region is comprised of 3 districts: the Central District (District of Columbia), the Eastern District (Maryland), and the Western District (Virginia). Each district is led by a District Commander (GS-080-14) who is responsible for the oversight of law enforcement and physical security operations for all federal facilities within his or her district.

TRAINING AND EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT

All entry level police officers and sworn Inspectors are required to attend the 12-week Uniformed Police Training Program (formerly Mixed Basic Police) administered by the DHS Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), with FPS oversight by the ICE/FPS National Training Academy (NTA). FPS administers one-week pre-basic and two-week post-basic training for a total of 15 weeks of entry-level training. This Uniformed Police Training Program uses an in-depth curriculum with a broad range of police and general investigative skills, and provides the opportunity for trainees to develop valuable partnerships with police officers from other federal agencies, including the U.S. Secret Service Uniformed Division, U.S. Capitol Police, Mint Police, U.S. Park Police and the Bureau of Land Management.

All entry-level special agents attend the 10-week Criminal Investigator's Training Program (CITP) at FLETC. This program is a mixed, interagency class in which special agents develop the skills required to conduct and present for prosecution criminal investigations ranging from crimes of violence to financial fraud and racketeering. FPS special agents develop their investigative skills with special agents from a wide range of other federal agencies, including agents from the Offices of the Inspector General, the U.S. Secret Service, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Sworn and non-sworn physical security specialists are required to successfully complete four weeks of the FPS Physical Security Academy (PSA), administered by FPS NTA. The curriculum was developed in collaboration with the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS). In recent years, other federal agencies have sent physical security

specialists to attend PSA classes. ICE/FPS hosts these classes at its state-of-the-art facility at FLETC in Georgia.

FPS training does not end at FLETC. Annually, all officers, sworn inspectors, and special agents are required to successfully complete 40 hours of in-service training which includes firearm and other weapons re-qualification, legal updates, Weapons of Mass Destruction Awareness, Suicide/Homicide Bomber interdiction, Incident Command System and other blocks of instruction determined to be mission-critical by regional management, FPS Headquarters, and ICE. All ICE/FPS sworn personnel are required to successfully qualify quarterly with their service issued/approved sidearm and specialty weapons. Special agents are required to receive legal update training every three years. Our officers, sworn inspectors and special agents are also required to receive national in-service training at FLETC every 5 years.

Specialized teams in NCR receive additional training. Our K-9 Explosive Detection Teams receive their initial training and certification at Auburn University Canine Detection Training Center in Alabama. Recurrent training is conducted in conjunction with PGPD K-9 Explosive Detection Teams. All ICE/FPS HAZMAT technicians are trained and certified to national standards, in compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS). All ICE/FPS T-EMTs in NCR are nationally certified and meet recurrent training requirements. The NCR Confined Space Tunnel Team members are trained to FPS mission requirement standards, and meet the interagency operating

requirements of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Police to facilitate joint operations.

INTERAGENCY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The FPS NCR recognizes that our region is the most jurisdictionally compressed region in the country. Furthermore, the NCR faces a significant risk of attack and impact outcome from terrorist and domestic criminal elements. Nowhere in our Homeland are there so many local, state and federal agencies from all disciplines of emergency services compressed in such a small geographic area. Likewise, nowhere else in our Homeland is there such compression of potential targets for terrorism, coupled with the tremendous potential for a broad disruptive effect on local, state and federal governmental services and the local population. The situational conditions in the NCR make interagency collaboration in emergency preparedness especially critical.

One of our top priorities is strengthening and fortifying FPS' posture as a contributor to the region's emergency services community. The FPS/NCR has hosted three major computer simulation exercises leveraging the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command's (TRADOC) *Janus* war-gaming system. Interagency participants for these three exercises have included the DC Emergency Management Agency (DCEMA), Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), DC Fire and EMS, U.S. Secret Service (USSS), U.S. Park Police (USPP), WMATA Police, Prince Georges County Police (PGCPD), PG Fire Department (PGFD) and the General Services Administration (GSA).

FPS/NCR participates in a wide range of regional interagency exercises through our liaison with the DHS Office of NCR Coordination and the COG. In the 2006 calendar year alone, FPS/NCR has participated in 8 joint, interagency exercises in our region. As an example of the level of FPS/NCR interagency liaison and coordination during the recent TOPOFF 4 Command Post Exercise, FPS command level officers and special agents were positioned at the DCEMA Emergency Operations Center (EOC), MPD Synchronized Operations Command Center (SOCC), DHS National Operations Center (NOC), Unified Incident Command Center (UICC), the Office of NCR Coordinator and the GSA/NCR EOC. FPS/NCR plans to participate in seven joint interagency exercises between July and September 2006.

TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES

The FPS/NCR utilizes a wide range of technology to carry out our mission. Our explosive detection operation is a robust combination of K-9 and technological assets. The FPS/NCR screens trucks making deliveries to certain high risk federal facilities and utilizing backscatter X-Ray technology, we conduct about 19,000 scans each year. Our Mobile Vehicle X-Ray operation is conducted jointly with the District of Columbia National Guard (DCNG). At many federal facilities, the FPS/NCR contract guard force conducts X-Ray package screening. The effectiveness of our screening process can also be quantified: since the beginning of Fiscal Year (FY) 2006, we have intercepted and denied entry to 5,517 prohibited items. At some high-risk locations, samples are obtained from vehicles or carried items and analyzed by explosive trace detectors, which use ion mobility spectrometry to detect chemical properties of possible explosive material. This

robust array of technology is further enhanced through our participation as a member agency in various sub-groups of the Technical Support Working Group (TSWG). A number of our senior specialist officers participate with a wide range of international, federal, state and local agencies under the umbrella of the TSWG in developing joint criteria for emerging technology and protocols.

Through our long-standing and strong support within TSWG, last year FPS/NCR received a state-of-the-art Mobile Command Vehicle (MCV) for field testing and evaluation as well as enhancement of FPS interagency operations. This MCV was deployed as part of the response to Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, and to various demonstrations and joint exercises in the NCR. FPS/NCR regularly participates in joint MCV interoperability exercises along with MPD, DCEMA, DC F&EMS, and a wide range of other federal, state and local partners.

Through TSWG funding, the Training Support Package (TSP) entitled *Preparation for the Suicide/Homicide Bomber*, was published in 2004. As the principal author of this work, I have provided training on suicide/homicide bomber awareness and interdiction to all FPS sworn staff members as well as various military, federal, state and local members of the emergency services community. The TSP is a DHS Office of Grants and Training approved program for acquisition from the General Printing Office with state and local Homeland Security grant funds. Since its publication in 2004, thousands of emergency service providers and military personnel operating in Iraq and Afghanistan have benefited from this program.

Much of our region's HAZMAT operations are performed using technology that is compatible with many of the region's other federal, state and local partners. FPS/NCR is deeply involved in various committees of the Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG). Through our COG involvement, the FPS is able to ensure operating protocol congruence as well as equipment compatibility with other COG member agencies.

EQUIPMENT ISSUANCE

In order for our officers, sworn Inspectors and special agents to safely and effectively accomplish our mission as part of the Department of Homeland Security, we place a priority on obtaining the best type and quality of equipment and the training required to use such equipment. Matters pertaining to firearms, ammunition, protective ballistic vests and less lethal weapons are governed by ICE policy promulgated by the National Firearms Tactical Training Unit (NFTTU). Our duty sidearm is the SIG model P-229 semi-automatic pistol chambered in the .357 caliber SIG. Each officer, sworn physical security inspector and special agent is required to successfully demonstrate proficiency on a quarterly basis with his or her sidearm on the NFTTU approved ICE Course of Fire. In addition to the issuance of all uniform and duty accessory items, each officer, sworn physical security inspector and special agent is issued a ballistic protective vest that meets or exceeds NFTTU standards of Level IIIA protective capabilities. Ballistic protective vests are replaced on a five-year cycle in accordance with NFTTU policy, National Institute of Justice and industry standards.

The vehicles in operation in the NCR are equipped with emergency equipment and radio. Additionally, handheld radios and cellular telephones are issued to enhance communications capabilities for our personnel.

INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

Much of the mission of FPS can only be accomplished through coordination and interaction with other federal, state and local partners. Joint planning and the coordination of efforts among so many agencies in the NCR is a near daily routine. With great frequency, FPS coordinates with the USPP and MPD to address demonstrations and large crowd assemblies. During recent and continuing protests at the Harry Truman Building, State Department Diplomatic Security Service, MPD, USPP and the U.S. Mint Police regularly aid the FPS staff in protecting the building and ensuring the unfettered egress of employees, Congressional officials and foreign dignitaries.

Between 2002 and May of this year, FPS has been deeply engaged in joint operations associated with the high threat litigation of key terrorist and gang offenders at the Albert V. Bryan U.S. Courthouse in Alexandria, Virginia. With the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS), Alexandria Police Department (APD), Alexandria Fire Department (AFD) and the FBI, seamless communications and coordination have been routine. During the spring of this year, the sentencing phase of U.S. v. Zacharias Moussaoui tested the extent to which these agencies could integrate on a long-term basis. We succeeded in establishing joint communications by integrating agency-specific radio nets through APDs ACU-1000. All participating agencies utilized their own agency-specific radio

equipment and could talk with one another across various agency frequency bands. The FPS/NCR hosted a Unified Incident Command Center at our substation in Alexandria. Intelligence collection, analysis and dissemination was conducted jointly and in congruence with each participating agency's protocols.

An ongoing example of a level of integration heretofore under-utilized by FPS is in the development of Special Protective Areas. In discussions with Ms. Barbara Childs-Pair, DCEMA, and with the assistance of Mr. Tom Lockwood, DHS/ONCRC, FPS has assigned a team of three Inspectors, led by an Area Commander, to develop seamless coordination of notification, communications and response to a wide range of suspected critical incident events in cluster areas of federal facilities and the private sector locations within those clusters. FPS, DCEMA, DHS/ONCRC and GSA/NCR share a common goal, namely, to ensure timely, congruent notification across public and private sector lines during an incident or event, and to ensure de-confliction in response protective measures for all persons that may be affected. To advance this effort, we are leveraging our robust cascade notification/alert system to federal agency officials in concert with DCEMA, which is leveraging the D.C. Government Alert notification system in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Federal buildings and private businesses are holding joint meetings in the Special Protective Areas to identify gaps in response protocols and to ensure congruence of response measures.

CHALLENGES FACING FPS

A number of challenges lay ahead for FPS in the NCR. One of the greatest operational challenges facing all emergency services agencies in our region is communications interoperability. As previously mentioned, FPS and a number of partner agencies have the capability to overcome variations in radio band and frequencies for pre-planned or critical incidents. These systems work well and the quarterly exercise of our region's emergency services community Mobile Command Vehicles is a huge step forward toward seamless communications.

FUTURE EFFORTS

The mission of FPS is to render federal properties safe and secure for federal employees, officials, and visitors in a professional and cost-effective manner by deploying a highly trained and multi-disciplined police force. In the future, we look forward to continuing our liaison with federal, state, and local law enforcement, security, and emergency planning entities to strengthen our collective efforts in this area.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Committee for your support of our efforts. This concludes my prepared statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

ⁱ "Sworn" employee refers to those personnel who have been authorized police powers and arrest authority under applicable statutes and DHS management directives. These category of employees include GS-083, GS-080, and GS-1811 occupational series.